

## CLAIMS

1. An eight-cylinder engine including:
  - fuel injection valves provided one for each cylinder of the eight-cylinder engine for injecting fuel thereinto;
  - a first valve drive unit for driving four of said eight fuel injection valves to open and close by energizing these four fuel injection valves; and
  - a second valve drive unit for driving four fuel injection valves other than said first-mentioned four fuel injection valves to open and close by energizing the second-mentioned four fuel injection valves;characterized in that both of said valve drive units drive those fuel injection valves which are provided on cylinders for which combustion and expansion strokes occur at equal intervals.
2. The eight-cylinder engine as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that
  - said first valve drive unit drives those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on cylinders for which combustion and expansion strokes occur in the first, third, fifth and seventh order;
  - said second valve drive unit drives those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on cylinders for which combustion and expansion strokes occur in the second, fourth, sixth and eighth order.
3. An eight-cylinder engine in which when four cylinders are put into one cylinder group, two cylinder groups are arranged in a V-shaped configuration with fuel injection valves being provided for injecting fuel into the cylinders, respectively,
  - in case where those cylinders which belong to one of said two cylinder groups are referred to, from one end to the other end, as a first cylinder, a third cylinder, a fifth cylinder and a seventh cylinder, and those cylinders which belong to the other of said two cylinder groups are referred to, from one end to the other end, as a second cylinder, a fourth cylinder, a sixth cylinder and an eighth cylinder, characterized by comprising:

a first valve drive unit for driving those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on the first cylinder, the fourth cylinder, the sixth cylinder and the seventh cylinder by energizing these fuel injection valves; and

a second valve drive unit for driving those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on the second cylinder, the third cylinder, the fifth cylinder and the eighth cylinder by energizing these fuel injection valves.